In re Patent Application of:

MAGNI ET AL.

Serial No. 10/036,335

Filing Date: DECEMBER 26, 2001

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for correctly indicating as allowable the subject matter of dependent Claims 10 and 15.

Claims 19-25 have been cancelled based upon the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter thereof.

Independent Claims 8 and 14 have been amended to more clearly define the preset invention of the cited prior art references. In particular, independent Claim 8 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from dependent Claim 10, and independent Claim 14 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from dependent Claim 15. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical errors.

In view of the patentability of amended independent Claims 8 and 14, it is submitted that the dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art. Thus, these dependent claims require no further discussion herein.

Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, on this 21st day of May, 2004.